

Minutes
Joint Meeting
West Tisbury Space Needs Committee, Capital Improvements Planning Committee and
others
September 25, 2006

Present: Kathy Logue, Les Cutler, Chuck Hodgkinson, Hermine Hull, Beatrice Phear, Kent Healy, Bob Schwartz, Al DeVito, Joann Resendez, Maggie Schwartz, Terry Cutler, Mike Colaneri, Glenn Hearn, Bruce Stone, John Early, Ernie Mendenhall, Leah Smith, Pat Gregory, Joe Eldredge

Chuck opened the meeting at 5:00 PM in the Howes House.

Overall meeting purpose

The meeting was a working meeting to update and get feedback from the various town board and committee members on the progress to date for preparing one or more overall town planning options for maintaining, remodeling or expanding the town's facilities and assets to accommodate the future space needs for every town function. These options will address the expressed space or facility needs for each town department--within town hall and outside town hall. None of the options discussed have been fully vetted as to their viability. The Space Needs Committee still needs to frame the long-term plan(s) with rough cost estimates and the timing priority for each project. These remaining steps may affect the feasibility or practicality of some of the ideas.

Process (Attached Meeting Guide)

Chuck distributed documents showing the process and disciplines the committee is following to gather data, organize the options for town consideration with the pros and cons of each option. It further explained the twelve guiding principles it has adopted that are the basis for evaluating each option and making decisions. We hope to end up with a ten to fifteen year plan based on functional need and capital planning. We probably will ask for a warrant article at special town meeting for appropriation for professional cost estimator. There was no disagreement with the discipline or approach.

Space Use Options Pros & Cons (Attached Document)

Several facility development options with the pros and cons of each option were reviewed for every town function with the goal of satisfying their expressed future space needs. The space committee also reviewed the ideas that were reviewed but ultimately rejected with the reasons why.

Feedback

The group agreed it was important to share all of the considered ideas with town residents--including those that were rejected with the reasons.

The guests thought the work to date is very thorough, and people offered the following suggestions for getting public comment--before the fall special town meeting:

Mail the final report to all registered town voters. Hold a press conference. Hold one or more public hearings. Work with the various island cable TV channels and press vehicles. Put the options on town web site. It was noted that it would have been nice if some of the media were present for tonight's discussion.

Most people thought it is important to keep the town center "campus" feel.

Add as an option that the Old Court House Road site is requested for affordable housing. Add that the extra office in Howes House will be reserved as surplus offices and/or meeting space for occasional use.

It was commented that people need financial numbers about everything in order to make informed choices. Get the finances framed in relationship to each other rather than in concrete numbers. Go in with a range of numbers.

The committee needs to be very clear about what it wants to find out from the public. Have RFP drafted before you go into town meeting.

The Space Committee thanked everyone for their time and thoughts and invited further comment at any time. It agreed this is a great deal of information to absorb in one session.

Respectfully submitted,

Beatrice Phear

Attached to these minutes and incorporated herein:

September 25 Meeting Guide
Space Use Options Pros & Cons

Approved October 10, 2006